

Customer No. 31013

Attorney Docket No. 056314/0002

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenichi IGA et al. Group Art Unit: 2882
Serial No.: 09/717,733 Examiner: Chih-Cheng Glen Kao
Filed: November 21, 2000
For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPTICAL FIBER
SPLICING**

July 25, 2003

PETITION FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants hereby request that the time for responding to the final Office Action mailed March 25, 2003 in the above-referenced patent application be extended for one (1) month pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a). With this extension, the deadline for response is reset to expire July 25, 2003.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being submitted concurrently herewith together with a Response to Final Office Action.

The fee set in 37 CFR 1.17(a) for the one-month extension of time at the small entity rate is \$55.00. A check in the amount of \$430.00 covering the extension fee and the

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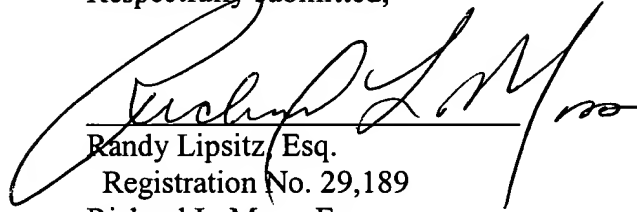
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\$375.00 fee for the RCE is enclosed. Please charge any fee deficiency and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Lipsitz', is written over a horizontal line.

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